

Proof of Citizenship and Identity

New Requirements for Medi-Cal Beneficiaries

A new law says most full scope Medi-Cal beneficiaries must show proof of citizenship *and* proof of identity. Read below to learn more. Then, see the list of acceptable kinds of proof of citizenship and identity on the back.

Does *everyone* have to show proof of citizenship and identity?

No. The following U.S. citizens or nationals do *not* have to provide proof of citizenship or identity:

- Anyone getting Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Anyone getting Medicare
- Anyone age 14–21 asking for Minor Consent Services
- Babies under age one born to women who are on Medi-Cal
- Children in Title IV-E Foster Care or Title IV-E Adoption Assistance
- Babies in the Abandoned Baby Program

What if I am not one of the above people?

If you are a U.S. citizen or national, you must provide proof of citizenship and identity to continue to be eligible for full scope Medi-Cal.

How long will my coverage continue?

Your full scope Medi-Cal benefits will continue if you are eligible and make a reasonable effort to provide the proof of citizenship and identity. You must tell your eligibility worker you are trying to get the proof.

Important! Complete and return your *Annual Redetermination* form by the deadline regardless of whether you have proof of citizenship and identity to return with the form. You can provide proof of citizenship and identity later.

What if I do not have proof of citizenship?

One way of proving your citizenship is to provide an original or a certified copy of your birth certificate. If you were born in California, the county can ask for your birth record. (A birth record is proof of citizenship.)

Fill out a *Request for California Birth Record* to ask the county to request your birth record. Then mail or take this form to your local social services office. If a birth record cannot be found, you will need to provide another proof of citizenship.

If you cannot provide a certified copy or original birth certificate, there are other ways to prove your citizenship.

What if I cannot provide proof of citizenship and identity?

If you cannot provide your proof within a reasonable amount of time, but you meet all other eligibility requirements, you can get limited benefits. Limited benefits cover emergency, pregnancy-related, and long-term care services.

If you provide proof within one year of the redetermination, your Medi-Cal benefits will be changed to full-scope starting from the month that your limited benefits began.

Do immigrants have to provide proof of citizenship and identity, too?

No. If you are not a U.S. citizen or national, you only need to provide the same documents that were required before.

Do children have to provide proof of citizenship and identity, too?

Yes. If your child was born in California, ask your county to request the birth record as proof of your child's citizenship. You will still need to provide proof of identity.

Do I have to provide proof of citizenship and identity each time I renew?

No. You only have to provide this information once – either when you first apply or on your next annual eligibility review.

Do you need *original* citizenship and identity documents?

We need either the *original* citizenship and identity documents, or copies that have been certified by the issuing agency.

Can I mail my proof?

Yes. The county will make copies and mail them back to you. Or, you can *take* your documents to your local social services office. Ask them to make copies and give them back right away.

Acceptable Citizenship and Identity Documents

The easiest way to provide *both* proof of citizenship and identity is with **one** of these documents:

- U.S. Passport (issued without limitation)
- Certificate of Naturalization (N-550 or N-570)
- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (N-560 or N-561)

– **OR** –

If you do not have one of the documents above, provide...

One document from this column

- ❖ U.S. Birth Certificate
- ❖ Certification of Report of Birth (DS-1350)
- ❖ Report of Birth Abroad of a U.S. Citizen (FS-240)
- ❖ State Department Certification of Birth (FS-545 or DS-1350)
- ❖ U.S. Citizen Identification Card (I-197 or I-179)
- ❖ American Indian Card (I-872)
- ❖ Northern Marian Card (I-873)
- ❖ Final adoption decree
- ❖ Proof of employment by the U.S. civil service before June 1, 1976
- ❖ U.S. military service record that shows a U.S. place of birth
- ❖ U.S. hospital record that shows time and place of birth
- ❖ Life, health, or other insurance record that shows U.S. place of birth
- ❖ Federal or State census record that shows the applicant's age and U.S. citizenship (or U.S. place of birth)
- ❖ Seneca Indian tribal census record that shows U.S. place of birth*
- ❖ Bureau of Indian Affairs tribal census record of the Navajo Indians that shows a U.S. place of birth *
- ❖ U.S. State Vital Statistics birth registration notification*
- ❖ An amended U.S. public birth record (amended more than 5 years after the person's birth) *
- ❖ Statement by doctor or midwife present at the birth
- ❖ Admission papers from a nursing or other institution that shows U.S. place of birth *
- ❖ Medical record that shows U.S. place of birth

Medi-Cal prefers the documents at the top of the list.

If you **cannot** provide one of the above documents, you may ask two adults to fill out and sign an *Affidavit of Citizenship*. Both adults must have proof of their own identity and U.S. citizenship, and only one of them may be related to you.

** Must be dated at least 5 years before your 1st Medi-Cal application.*

AND

One document from this column

- ❖ Driver's license issued by a U.S. State or Territory with a photograph or other identifying information
- ❖ School Identification card with a photograph
- ❖ U.S. Military card or draft record
- ❖ Federal, state or local government ID card with same information as a driver's license
- ❖ Military dependent identification card
- ❖ A U.S. passport (issued with limitation)
- ❖ Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood or other U.S. American Indian/Alaska Native Tribal document
- ❖ U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Card
- ❖ School, daycare, or nursery school records for a child under 16

For a child under 16 who did not provide an *Affidavit of Citizenship*, you may submit:

- ❖ An affidavit of the child's identity signed by the child's parent or guardian.
- ❖ A Medi-Cal application or the Healthy Families–Medi-Cal joint application that shows the child's date and place of birth, and is signed by the child's parent or guardian.

Need help?

If you have questions about proof of citizenship or identity, call your local social services office or eligibility worker.